

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

March 10, 2009

The following minutes are a record of the Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council held in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall on Tuesday, March 10, 2009. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:40 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Council Secretary Sandra Weekes were Councilors Mike Brodinsky, Vincenzo M. DiNatale, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr., John LeTourneau, Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Councilor Michael Spiteri was absent from the meeting. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Janis Small and Comptroller James Bowes were also present.

2. Presentation by the Mayor of Certificates of Appreciation to the James H. Moran Mustangs Boys Basketball Team for their Championship season in the Central Connecticut Middle School Division with a League Record of 13 - 0
– Councilor Robert F. Parisi

Mayor Dickinson and Chairman Brodinsky announced the names and presented *Certificates of Appreciation to the James H. Moran Mustangs Boys Basketball Team for their Championship Season in the Central Connecticut Middle School Division with a League Record of 13 – 0.*

Team members included:

Jeff Biestek, Sean Brennan- Captain, Anthony Desantis-Captain, Brian Grasso, Jake Lutzen-Captain, Nolan Bath-Captain, Sean Merrill, Alex Soriano, Kyle Paolillo, Jacob Brockett, Tommy Laydon, Machael Tiedemann, Brian Demaio, Anthony Romania, Zachary Gannon, Sean Barth, Aaron Padden, Matt Daniels, Chris Cappiello-Statistician and Coach Howard Greenberg. They received a great round of applause from the parents who were gathered for the occasion and from the Town Council.

3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#553 - #577) totaling \$27,924.04
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Consider and Approve the Reappointment of David Gessert to the Public Utilities Commission for a three-year (3) term effective March 1, 2009 to March 1, 2012 - Mayor
 - 3c. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$10,000 to Distribution Plant-Leased Property on Customer Premise Acct #372 from Distribution Plant-Street Light and Signals Acct # 373 - Electric Division
 - 3d. Consider and Approve an Appropriation Town Aid Road Grant in the Amount of \$405.00 to Expenditures 08-09 Acct # 229-5015-611-6500 and to State Grant Revenue Acct # 229-1040-050-5000 - Public Works
 - 3e. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$7,000 to Office Expenses and Supplies Acct # 001-1320-401-4000 from Professional Services–Specialists Acct # 001-1320-901-9003– Town Attorney

3f. Approve Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2009

MOTION

Mr. Testa made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items 3a. to 3f. Mr. Farrell seconded. All Councilors present (8) voted Aye. Mr. Spiteri was absent. The motion passed.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
None

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, expressed his concern of another accident at the Rt.5 crossing with Toelles Road and the I-91 Interchange. Mr. Zandri feels that the town should be actively reminding the state of the urgency in addressing this crossing. He thinks police presence at the corner might alleviate some of the poor conditions as well as signs warning drivers of the hazardous intersection.

Lucille Trzcinski, 25 Turnberry Road, acknowledged the basketball team. She said that she was encouraged by their attendance.

Bill Cumerford, 5 Broadview, asked about the cease and desist order on Route 150 and wanted to know who is going to pay for the entire remediation, including all of the department heads involved – equipment used, fuel, wages, benefits – or the performance bond issued to the Department of Public Works Director to pay for this violation. Mayor Dickinson said that the Public Works Department would be performing any remediation pursuant to their normal budget. Mayor Dickinson said many of the determinations, which Mr. Cumerford is assuming, have not been made. Mr. Cumerford also said that he has reported the huge cracks and missing curbs for the past ten years. He submitted four (4) photographs showing the disrepair on parts of his road (*These photos are a part of the record of the meeting.*)

Diana Hotchkiss, 38 Clifton Street, noted that one of her family member had been killed at the Toelles Road crossing but that it was not reported as a death because her son-in-law passed away in the hospital. It does not become a statistic in this case of this crossing.

Phil Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street, said, “On March 17, you will have to celebrate without me. I am going to Dublin to visit with some of my relatives. I will think of you but not very much. Thank you.”

6. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$50,000 to Materials and Supplies Acct # 001-5015-401-4100 from Contingency-General Purposes Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 - Public Works

MOTION

Mr. Testa made a motion to Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$50,000 to Materials and Supplies from Contingency-General Purposes as presented by Public Works. Mr. Farrell seconded.

Mr. McCully said that the most recent storm had almost depleted his supply for treating the roads. He would like to replace some of the supply in preparation of another storm should there be one.

There were no comments or questions from the public. Chairman Brodinsky asked Mr. McCully for a cost breakdown of the storms this year in preparation of the budget.

All Councilors present (8) voted Aye. Mr. Spiteri was absent. The motion passed.

7. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$30,000 to Overtime Acct # 001-5015-101-1400 from Regular Wages and Salaries Acct # 001-5015-101-1000- Public Works

MOTION

Mr. Testa made a motion to Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$30,000 to Overtime from Regular Wages and Salaries as requested by Public Works. Mr. Farrell seconded.

Mr. McCully said that this last storm started on Sunday night, so it is double time until midnight and then time and on-half from midnight until 7:00A.M., and then time and one-half from 3:30 P.M. until they went home on Monday night.

Mr. Testa asked when the contract was due for re-negotiation. Mr. McCully said that #1183 has been working without a contract since it expired July 1, 2008, and that they are in negotiation. He said that he does not know the status of the negotiation. Mr. Testa asked if the issue of what type of pay is drawn, based on what hours are worked, are in the discussions. Mr. McCully said that this is all taken care of by Personnel and that he (Mr. McCully) is not included in the negotiations at that level.

Chairman Brodinsky discussed with Mr. McCully the overtime that is incurred in his department. Mr. McCully said snowplowing and that on a particular road project, overtime is incurred but once the fields and parks are open, there is a return to normal hours. He said that there are two staff members who work on the weekends for park clean up, additional wages are incurred when there is an emergency, and that his department employs college students in the summer.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, expressed his concern with regard to the salt in the snow that is being disposed of at the Garden Road site, which is very near the Quinnipiac River. Mr. McCully said that the disposal of snow at that location has been going on for years and that the material being used for the roads this year is approved by the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

Diana Hotchkiss, Clifton Street, asked about dumping of snow.

All Councilors present (8) voted Aye. Mr. Spiteri was absent. The motion passed.

8. Acceptance of Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant and Appropriation of Funds in the amount of \$41,381 to Council Chambers Camera System Acct # 001-1303-999-9915 and to State Grant Acct # 001-1040-050-5530 – Program Planning

MOTION

Mr. Testa made a motion to accept the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant and Appropriation of Funds in the amount of \$41,381 to Council Chambers Camera System and to State Grant as requested by Program Planning. Mr. Farrell seconded.

Scott Hanley, Manager, Government Television, acknowledged that this is a fairly routine grant that we should accept. He said that we are very fortunate to have received these funds.

There were no questions from the public.

Mr. Testa asked of the Mayor if these funds will appear in the budget that is now being prepared. Mayor Dickinson said no that the amount being accepted tonight would go to purchasing the camera along with re-appropriation of funds. Mr. Hanley agreed and said that the project was originally budgeted in the 2007-08 and some of that money was part of the appropriations-in-force money that has now been returned to another area of the budget. He said that the project cannot be completed with the \$41,000 and that they will attempt to re-appropriate some of the money to complete the project.

Mr. Testa said that when the re-appropriation is attempted, he thought that this amount would be reflected somewhere, so that they could get put it all together and get a feel for the amount of money that is needed in addition to this. Mayor Dickinson said that Mr. Hanley needs it this fiscal year, prior to June 30, 2009, and that the purchase will be made by June 30 of this year. Mr. Hanley said there is a deadline from the State of Connecticut Department of Utility Control (DPUC) of May 20, 2009 to complete the project. He said that this date includes an extension, which they have already been granted. He said DPUC has very tight timelines, so that he has to go to bid for this project, install the equipment and pay for it by May 20, 2009. Mr. Testa confirmed that this motion would appropriate this money into that account for this current budget year. Mayor Dickinson concurred. Mr. Hanley added that it would be the grant amount.

All Councilors present (8) voted Aye. Mr. Spiteri was absent. The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Discussion of Draft Schedule of Budget Hearings and Procedures
- Chairman Mike Brodinsky

Chairman Brodinsky explained the proposed budget workshop schedule. He discussed the possibility of some of the workshop sessions being televised. Mayor Dickinson said that the budget will be announced around April 1 and that after that announcement in the days that follow the budget book would be available in his office, the Town Council Office, the Office of the Comptroller and the Office of the Town Clerk. *(The schedule is part of the record of the meeting.)*

10. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property
- Mayor
11. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending matters of Gerald Coderre v. Town of Wallingford – Town Attorney

Mr. Economopoulos left the meeting at 7:23 P.M.

MOTION

Mr. Testa made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to:

10. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property requested by the Mayor and

11. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending matters of Gerald Coderre v. Town of Wallingford as requested by the Town Attorney

Mr. Farrell seconded.

All Councilors present (7) voted Aye. Councilors Economopoulos and Spiteri were absent. The motion passed.

The Council entered into Executive Session at 7:23 P.M.

Chairman Brodinsky announced the Council back in session. It was 8:07 P.M.

Attendance at the Executive Sessions included seven (7) Councilors. Councilors Economopoulos and Spiteri were absent. Mayor Dickinson and Town Attorney Janis Small were also present.

12. Consider and Approve a waiver of the bid to hire outside counsel in the pending litigation matter of Gerald Coderre v. Town of Wallingford – Town Attorney

MOTION

Mr. Testa made a motion to approve a waiver of the bid to hire outside counsel in the pending litigation matter of Gerald Coderre v. Town of Wallingford as requested the Town Attorney.

All Councilors present (7) voted Aye. Councilors Economopoulos and Spiteri were absent. The motion passed.

MOTION

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Testa seconded.

All Councilors (7) present voted Aye. Councilors Economopoulos and Spiteri were absent. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary

Meeting recorded by Sandra Weekes

Chairman, Mike Brodinsky

Date

Town Clerk, Barbara Kapi

Date